

Kensington Goes To The Movies

Week 1: The Last Jedi

BOTTOM LINE

When we are in a season of life where we have lost our passion and purpose we need to remember that God has designed each of us to fulfill a plan and purpose that reflects His glory to the world. We need to rise and stand with courage to what God has called us to do.

GOAL OF THE GROUP

To create meaningful conversation that stretches our faith and draws us closer to the heart of God. This guide is a suggestion. Adjust the questions as appropriate for your group.

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 1:23-26; 3:13-15

Note: Scenes from the movie "The Last Jedi" were also played in the Weekend service to show Luke Skywalker's struggle to re-engage in the fight to save The Rebellion. His past haunts him and he feels disqualified and disinterested.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share:** Have you ever found yourself in a season where you see what needs to be done, but are unwilling to engage and do it? To what degree do past hurts, betrayal or your mistakes play a part in this struggle?
- Luke Skywalker is reminded of his past failures and present fear. He reaches a point of not only walking away from everything, but also destroying the future of the Jedi rising again. There are many characters in the Bible who faced situations like this. The Apostle Paul has a past he wasn't proud of. He saw his failures and mistakes very clearly. There were moments in his life where he dreamed of stepping out of the fight.
 - Read Philippians 1: 23-26 & Discuss** the parallels between Paul and Luke Skywalker. How do you relate them to situations in your own life?
 - Paul was wrestling with urgency of the daily battles that he faced, while being drawn to be finished and resting in the presence of Jesus in heaven. Understand that this is not a desire to take his life, but rather to just be finished with the tasks that God has for him to do here on earth. This is challenging to desire heaven better than being here on earth with friends and family. To what degree can you consider eternity with Christ 'better by far'?
- Luke eventually concedes to jump back into the fight and teach Rey in the ways of The Jedi. He realizes it is through the messy business of teaching and training a young disciple that the Rebellion will rise again. This is true of our lives. We have a responsibility to teach others in the truth of the love of Christ. Is this an idea that is relevant in your own life in the season you are in? Why or why not?
- In verses 24-26 Paul realized it wasn't about him but for the sake of others he needed to stay engaged. People were depending on him. He knew that the opportunity for others to experience Jesus would be through the example of his life. One of the biggest mistakes we can make is to think our actions or inactions only affect us. Share an experience in your own life that is an example of someone being positively impacted because you engaged in their life.
- Read Philippians 3: 13-15 & Discuss:** Paul is talking about finishing well. Are we willing to shake off the mistakes of our past and re-engage in the present because we are passionate about the future movement of God in this world?
 - There are moments awaiting each of us that only we can step into! Does this thought excite you or overwhelm you?
 - Paul says "forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead". He calls on the strength of God to empower him to forget the past and move on with purpose. Do you believe that you have the same ability as Paul to do what God calls you to do?
 - If the answer to the previous question was no, what would it take for you to change the way you feel? Is there someone in your life that models this attitude? Consider asking them to mentor you.

Will we rise and stand with courage to what God has called you to do? Who will join the great race and finish well? We are looking for Luke Skywalker, Paul the Apostle, and you!



TRY THIS

Are you willing to rise up in the moment even when the odds are against us, confident that God will give us the strength to stand? Think about the faces of the people that you know and love that draw you back into the battle for hearts. Is there someone who needs you to teach and disciple them? Reach out to them and offer to lead them. Or, maybe you are in a season of needing someone to teach and disciple you? Reach out to someone in your life who is strong in their faith and ask them to do this with you. If you don't know where to begin, check out the Kensington website: kensingtonchurch.org/ministry/care-help